Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline project

*560. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been effectively eased out of Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline as Pakistan-Iran signed the agreement on 30th April, 2006 in Islamabad to lay a gas pipeline with the higher off-take for Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether there would be nothing left for India to buy in the 3.2 billion capacity pipeline;

(c) whether India has refused to join on these conditions;

(d) whether Iran has also not taken decision on LNG deal which is pending for long; and

(e) if so, what is the reaction of Government on these issues?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) There were reports in some sections of the media about Iran-Pakistan reaching an agreement for higher offtake of gas by Pakistan from the proposed Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline. However, Mr. M.H. Nejad Hosseinian, Deputy Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Petroleum, Islamic Republic of Iran, during his recent visit to New Delhi on 1-2 **May,** 2006 informed that no such Agreement has been signed **between Iran and** Pakistan.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) and (b) above.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The matter is being pursued with the Iranian side.